

# Sun Journal

## SAD 17 gets energy efficiency award

By Leslie H. Dixon , Staff Writer

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OXFORD - SAD 17 is one of eight organizations chosen as this year's Northeast Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency.

The district was recognized by Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships.

It is the district's second major honor for energy efficiency efforts this year. In February, the Maine Public Utilities Commission and Maine Efficiency also recognized school officials for energy efficiency upgrades districtwide.

The eight organizations, including two other schools in New England, were chosen for the recognition based on their achievements in adopting energy efficiency and demonstrated quantifiable energy savings, commitment to continued improvement in energy performance and direct operational impact.

SAD 17 demonstrated a 17 to 30 percent reduction in annual energy consumption and an annual cost savings of \$247,942 through its energy reducing methods.

"The Business Leaders program celebrates organizations in the Northeast who have made commitments to achieving energy savings through cost-effective investments, addressing comprehensive changes in major energy systems, improving energy performance through operational practices and management level support and demonstrating leadership to advance energy efficiency," NEEP spokesperson Catherine Stanley said.

Honorees are nominated by the energy efficiency program administrator in their territory. In this case, SAD 17 was nominated by Efficiency Maine, a sponsor of NEEP.

Facilities Manager David Marshall and Business Manager Cathy Fanjoy represented SAD 17 earlier this month at the NEEP dinner celebration in Providence, R.I. More than 300 policy, government and business leaders attended the day-long conference and exhibition.

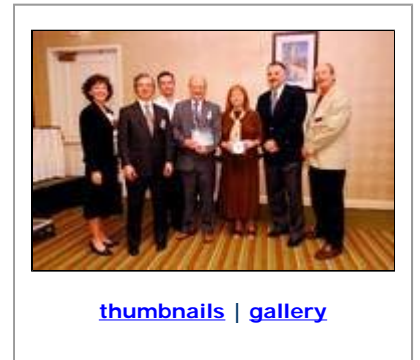
Although neither was available for comment Friday, in a presentation at the conference Marshall said, "With a fixed budget as in a school system, we must do everything we can do to bring costs down. We want to pay for education, not energy."

To do that the district has installed high efficiency lighting, lighting controls such as occupancy sensors and demand control ventilation systems in existing schools and received \$118,000 from Efficiency Maine for design assistance and to offset equipment costs.

The report showed that teachers across the system said students can now read more easily with the new lighting and that daylight harvesting strategies at the new Paris Elementary School has brought abundant natural light into the building.

Officials said the efficiency upgrades in the district have not only improved the learning and working environment, but reduced annual energy consumption by between 17 and 30 percent. Officials said the savings are particularly important, SAD 17 officials reported, because the district's cost per kilowatt-hour increased by 90 percent this year when a five-year contract expired.

NEEP is a regional nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote energy efficiency in homes, buildings and industry in the Northeast United States through regionally coordinated programs and policies that increase the use of energy efficient products, services and practices, and that help achieve a cleaner environment and a more reliable and affordable energy



system.